

January 10, 2006

MaineDOT Interagency Meeting Notes

Website: <http://www.mdot/mdot/interagency-meetings/interagency-meetings.php>

Attending Agencies:

Federal Highway
Environmental Protection Agency
Army Corps of Engineers
Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife
Maine Natural Areas Program

Agencies Absent:

Land Use Regulation Commission
Federal Transit Authority
Atlantic Salmon Commission
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
National Marine Fisheries Service
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Maine Department of Marine Resources

Presentations

Wiscasset Route 1 Corridor Study, Presented by Ed Hanscom

- No handouts provided
- The presentation was to update the Agencies on the status of the NEPA Document.
- A draft EIS is scheduled for March 2006
- The study will be presented at the February Interagency meeting
- ACOE Phase I sign-off is still valid. No new alternatives have been added or removed from review
 - **ACTION ITEMS: Ed Hanscom will bring the study to the next interagency meeting for discussion.**

Skowhegan Transportation Study, Presented by Ed Hanscom and Ray Faucher

- No handouts provided
- Notice of Intent is in the Federal Register to do EIS.
- This has been elevated from an EA due to public controversy
- Preparation of the EIS will be led by Ray Faucher, Maine DOT
- Maine DOT will revise the scope and schedule of the study
- Ray will be in contact with agencies on status of original comments and data
- A provisional LEDPA determination through the previous EA/Highway Methodology process was for the E3E series
- The full range of alternatives will be evaluated in the EIS
- Estimated schedule for a draft NEPA document is mid 2007.
 - **ACTION ITEMS: Ray Faucher will lead study and present to the agencies throughout 2006-2007.**

I-395, Presented by Ray Faucher

- No handouts provided
- Draft EA and ACOE Phase I were complete
- FHWA has elevated EA to EIS
- Draft EIS is scheduled to be complete early 2007
 - **ACTION ITEMS: 1) Ray Faucher will set up a meeting after the February or March Interagency meeting for a discussion with the agencies. 2) Vernal pool study will be provided to the agencies as well as Maine DOT/ENV by Ray Faucher.**

Gorham Bypass Mitigation, PIN 8151.00, Presented by Deane Van Dusen

- Handouts provided and available on the interagency web site.
- Boyle Associates provided information on the Farrington Road site and the Larrabee Farm site.
- results from ground water analysis from 8/2003-1/2006 were provided and both sites have a water budget that would support wetlands.
- DOT inquired if the two additional options that were provided was adequate for site search or does DOT need to do additional site search. ACOE will assess and discuss with other federal agencies, but feels it is adequate
- DEP discussed the Cumberland Mills dam removal. Fish passage is currently not required at the dam because it is not federally licensed, but Fish passage is required at the next 5 dams upstream. If there is no fish passage at Cumberland Mills there will be none upstream. State Law states that IF&W can require fish passage at Cumberland Mills and that will be pursued.
 - **ACTION ITEMS: Jay will discuss with Federal agencies and get back to Deane by 1/20/06.**

Eustis Safety/Scenic turnout project, Presented by Bob Laroche

- No handouts provided
- ACOE was on-site to evaluate
- ACOE wants to see two options further flushed out.
- One option is the Wider shoulders with or without retaining walls
- FHWA and MaineDOT traffic safety stated this would be a safety issue.
- Maine DOT will document safety issues and provide to ACOE
- The second option is to move the turnout northerly. Maine DOT needs to evaluate wetlands, tree cutting, safety, and practicability.
 - **ACTION ITEMS: Maine DOT will provide Additional documentation to ACOE regarding these two alternatives and if they are practicable.**

Perry Route 1, Presented by Chris Rushton

- Functional assessment provided
- Richard Bostwick provided a summary of the wetland impacts and the functions and values
- 61,000 sf over 4 miles. Linear impacts to wetlands.
- Maine DOT has determined no real affect on what little functions there are.
- ACOE and EPA still want to see mitigation site search, which Mark Lickus has conducted and presented to them (as well as at the December 2005 interagency meeting).
 - **ACTION ITEMS: Jay will review information/data with other agencies and provide feedback to Mark Lickus by 1/27/06.**